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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

GEORGE JAMES, KELLY JAMES,	
Plaintiffs,	
vs.	) Civil No. 12-CV-120-S
STONELEIGH RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC	}
Defendant.	) )

# ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

Defendant Stoneleigh Recovery Associates, LLC (SRA) answers Plaintiffs
George James and Kelly James' (collectively, Plaintiffs) *Complaint*, as follows:

## **Introduction**

1. In answering paragraph 1, SRA states that the *Complaint* speaks for itself. Further answering paragraph 1, SRA denies that it did anything improper or that Plaintiffs are entitled to any damages, and therefore denies all of the allegations contained therein.

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LAW OFFICES
1720 CAREY AVENUE, SUITE 400
P.O. BOX 1083
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82003-1083

#### **Parties**

- 2. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 2.
- 3. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 3.
- 4. Answering paragraph 4, SRA admits that it is a debt collector, and that sometimes the telephone and United States Postal Service are used to assist with debt collection. Further answering paragraph 4, SRA states that the statement "and all other means at its disposal" is ambiguous and therefore denies this allegation. SRA denies all other allegations not specifically admitted herein.
  - 5. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 5.
- 6. In answering paragraph 6, SRA admits that it is operating as a debt collector and a collection agency in the state of Wyoming. Further answering paragraph 6, SRA admits that it conducts business in the state of Wyoming.

## Jurisdiction and Venue

7. In answering paragraph 7, the statutes cited by Plaintiffs speak for themselves. SRA admits that this Court has jurisdiction over the claims alleged by Plaintiffs, and that this Court is the proper venue for the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Complaint. Notwithstanding, Defendant SRA denies that it violated the FDCPA and FCRA. SRA denies all other allegations contained in paragraph 7 which are not specifically admitted herein.

In answering paragraph 8, SRA states that the allegations contained therein 8.

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

9. In answering paragraph 9, SRA states that the allegations contained therein

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

10. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 10.

11. In answering paragraph 11, SRA states that the allegations contained therein

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 11.

12. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 12.

13. In answering paragraph 13, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief about the truth of Plaintiffs' allegation that the Plaintiffs were

residing in Cheyenne, Wyoming during the alleged conduct. SRA denies that all conduct by

SRA took place in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Further answering paragraph 13, SRA states that

Plaintiffs' allegation that venue is proper is a statement of law to which no response is

required. To the extent that a response is required, SRA admits that venue is proper. SRA

denies all other allegations contained in paragraph 13.

Statutory Structure: Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

14. In answering paragraph 14, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 14, SRA states that the allegations contained therein are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth

of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

15. In answering paragraph 15, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 15, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 15

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA denies the allegations of paragraph 15.

16. In answering paragraph 16, SRA states that FDCPA speaks for itself. Further

answering paragraph 16, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 16 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth

of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

17. In answering paragraph 17, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 17, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 17

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

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In answering paragraph 18, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself. 18.

Further answering paragraph 18, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 18

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

19. In answering paragraph 19, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 19, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 19

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

20. In answering paragraph 20, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 20, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 20

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

21. In answering paragraph 21, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 21, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 21

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

22. In answering paragraph 22, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 22, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 22

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

23. In answering paragraph 23, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 23, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 23

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

24. In answering paragraph 24, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 24, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 24

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

25. In answering paragraph 25, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 25, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 25

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

26. In answering paragraph 26, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 26, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 26

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

27. In answering paragraph 27, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 27, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 27

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

Statutory Structure: Fair Credit Reporting Act

28. In answering paragraph 28, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 28, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 28

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

29. In answering paragraph 29, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 29, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 29

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

30. In answering paragraph 30, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 30, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 30

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

31. In answering paragraph 31, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 31, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 31

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

32. In answering paragraph 32, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 32, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 32

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

33. In answering paragraph 33, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 33, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 33

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

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required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

34. In answering paragraph 34, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 34, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 34

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

**Statutory Structure: Wyoming Collection Agencies Act** 

35. In answering paragraph 35, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 35, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 35

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

36. In answering paragraph 36, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 36, SRA states that the allegations contained in paragraph 36

are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is

required, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about

the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore denies the same.

## **Factual Allegations**

- 37. In answering paragraph 37, SRA admits that it sent Mrs. James a letter dated July 19, 2011. SRA lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations of paragraph 37.
  - 38. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 38.
  - 39. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 39.
- 40. In answering paragraph 40, SRA states that it admits that Mrs. James filed a verified complaint with the Wyoming Collection Agency Board. Further answering paragraph 40, SRA states that lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 40, and so denies them.
  - 41. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 41.
- 42. In answering paragraph 42, SRA admits that it received a letter from the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Wyoming dated January 17, 2012, informing SRA that the Wyoming Collection Agency Board had revoked SRA's exemption certificate, and that SRA must cease and desist from collecting debts covered by the statutes until it obtained a license. SRA admits that the letter stated that this decision was made based on information provided by SRA and that the Board believed that SRA was trying to collect a debt incurred in Wyoming from a debtor located in Wyoming. SRA lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 42, and so denies them.

43. In answering paragraph 43, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 43, and so

denies them.

44. In answering paragraph 44, SRA states that Mrs. James consumer report

speaks for itself.

45. In answering paragraph 45, SRA states that Mr. James consumer report

speaks for itself.

46. In answering paragraph 46, SRA states that the FDCPA and FCRA speak for

themselves. Further answering paragraph 46, SRA states that the allegations contained in

paragraph 46 are statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a

response is required, SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 46.

47. In answering paragraph 47, SRA states that the FCRA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 47, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 47 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 47.

48. In answering paragraph 48, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 48, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 48 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 48.

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49. In answering paragraph 49, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 49, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 49 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 49.

50. In answering paragraph 50, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 50, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 50 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 50.

51. In answering paragraph 51, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 51, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 51 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 51.

52. In answering paragraph 52, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 52, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 52 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA admits that it is a collection agency, and was a collection agency when it

communicated with Mrs. James.

53. In answering paragraph 53, SRA states that the statute speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 53, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 53 are

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statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 53.

54. In answering paragraph 54, SRA states that the FDCPA speaks for itself.

Further answering paragraph 54, SRA states that the allegations of paragraph 54 are

statements of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required,

SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 54.

55. In answering paragraph 55, SRA states that it lacks knowledge or information

sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained therein and therefore

denies the same.

56. In answering paragraph 56, SRA admits that it applied for an exemption

certificate from the Wyoming Collections Agency Board in January 2008. SRA admits that

the Wyoming Collections Agency Board issues exemption certificates to companies who by

law are not required to obtain a license. SRA admits that exemption certificates are issued

by the Board after application and the Board's approval. SRA lacks knowledge or

information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations of

paragraph 56, and so denies them.

57. SRA admits the allegations contained in paragraph 57.

58. In answering paragraph 58, SRA admits that the Board revoked its exemption

certificate in January 2012. SRA denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph

58.

59. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 59.

## **FDCPA Violations**

- 60. In answering paragraph 60, SRA incorporates its answers to the above allegations as if set forth fully herein. Further answering paragraph 60, SRA denies any violation of the FDCPA. SRA denies any remaining allegations contained in paragraph 60.
  - 61. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 61.
- 62. In answering paragraph 62, SRA admits that it stated in its written communication that it would mail verification to Mrs. James if she disputed the validity of the debt. SRA denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 62.
  - 63. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 63.
  - 64. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 64.
  - 65. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 65.
  - 66. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 66.
  - 67. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 67.
  - 68. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 68.
  - 69. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 69.
  - 70. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 70.
  - 71. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 71.

# **FCRA Violations**

- 72. In answering paragraph 72, SRA incorporates its answers to the above allegations as if set forth fully herein. Further answering paragraph 72, SRA denies any violation of the FCRA. SRA denies any remaining allegations contained in paragraph 72.
  - 73. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 73.
  - 74. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 74.

### **WCAA Violations**

- 75. In answering paragraph 75, SRA incorporates its answers to the above allegations as if set forth fully herein. Further answering paragraph 75, SRA denies any violation of the Wyoming Collection Agencies Act (WCAA). SRA denies any remaining allegations contained in paragraph 75.
  - 76. SRA denies the allegations contained in paragraph 76.

#### Request for Relief

77. SRA denies the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Request for Relief, including subparagraphs a-f, and denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to the relief requested.

## General Denial

78. SRA denies all allegations not specifically admitted herein.

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# **Affirmative Defenses**

- 1. SRA did not violate any of the provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
  - 2. SRA did not violate any of the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
  - 3. SRA did not violate the Wyoming Collection Agencies Act.
  - 4. SRA asserts the bona fide error defense.
  - 5. Every action taken by SRA was undertaken in good faith.
- 6. Every action taken by SRA was authorized pursuant to the Exemption Certificate issued by the Wyoming Collection Agency Board and Wyoming law.
  - 7. Plaintiffs have not suffered any damages.
  - 8. Plaintiffs' allegations fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
- 9. Plaintiffs damages, if any, are the result of acts or omission committed by others.
- 10. Any inquiry by SRA into the Plaintiffs' credit reports was done for a permissible purpose under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- 11. SRA reserves the right to list additional affirmative defenses as they become known during discovery.

## Attorneys' Fees Under FDCPA

SRA asserts that the Plaintiffs have brought this action in bad faith, and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k)(a)(3), SRA is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs reasonably expended in defending this action.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Stoneleigh Recovery Associates, LLC denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any relief and respectfully prays that the Court dismiss with prejudice all allegations and claims asserted against it in Plaintiffs' Complaint, award it costs of suit, attorneys' fees under the FDCPA, and grant it any other relief that this Court deems proper.

Dated: July 13, 2012.

STONELEIGH RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC, Defendant

BY:

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing *Answer to Complaint* was served upon all parties to this action pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil procedure on July 13, 2012, and that copies were served as follows:

George James Kelly James 3422 Cribbon Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82001

[ X ] U.S. MAIL[ ] FED EX[ ] FAX[ ] HAND DELIVERED[ ] ELECTRONIC MAIL

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Attorneys for Above-Named Defendant